

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08531 161634Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12
SSM-03 HA-05 /093 W
-----008701 161639Z /53

O 161625Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6800
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 08531

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR MILI EG IS LE XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 8519

SUMMARY. RESPONSIBLE GOE OFFICIALS BLAME BEGIN'S IN-
TRANSIGENCE AND INABILITY OF U.S. TO MOVE ISRAELIS
QUICKLY ENOUGH FOR CURRENT ROUND OF VIOLENCE. PALES-
TINIAN FRUSTRATION UNDERSTANDABLE AND LIKELY TO BE
FURTHER EXPLOITED BY OPPONENTS OF SETTLEMENT. CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE VINDICATES EGYPTIAN POLICY AND EXPOSES
FALLACIES OF ISRAELI POLICY. DESPITE GROWING PUBLIC
PESSIMISM THAT PEACE PROCESS COLLAPSING, OFFICIALS RE-
MAIN COMMITTED TO PEACE PROCESS. BASIC ELEMENTS TO BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08531 161634Z

RESOLVED REMAIN WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN SELF-
DETERMINATION AND U.S. MUST NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE
DISTRACTED BY SIDE ISSUE OF LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTION OF RESPONSIBLE GOE OFFICIALS TO ISRAELI
"AGGRESSION" AGAINST LEBANON CONSISTENT IN MOST RE-
SPECTS WITH OFFICIALLY GUIDED MEDIA REACTION (REFTEL),

BUT WITH CONSIDERABLY MORE GLOOM AND EMPHASIS ON CRUCIAL ROLE U.S. MUST NOW PLAY TO KEEP PEACE PROCESS ALIVE. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIALS SEEM TO HAVE DRAWN FROM FATAH RAID AND ISRAELI REACTION:

(A) ROOT CAUSE IS BEGIN'S INTRANSIGENCE AND INABILITY OF U.S. TO MOVE ISRAELIS QUICKLY ENOUGH ON PEACE PROCESS. TEL AVIV RAID WAS RESULT OF FRUSTRATION OF EVEN MODERATE PALESTINIANS THAT THERE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS AND PLO BEING CUT OUT OF THE ACTION. ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IS LIKELY SINCE THOSE WHO WANT PEACE PROCESS TO FAIL (E.G. LIBYA AND IRAQ) CAN EXPLOIT PALESTINIAN FRUSTRATIONS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. DESPITE CERTAIN JUSTIFICATION FOR FATAH ACTION, ANTI-PALESTINIAN FEELING CONTINUES AT HIGH LEVEL.

(B) CONTRARY TO BEGIN'S CLAIM THAT TEL AVIV RAID PROVES ISRAEL CAN NEVER PERMIT A PALESTINIAN STATE, RAID PROVES THAT UNTIL PALESTINIANS HAVE A HOME OF THEIR OWN, TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE, PROBABLY WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY.

(C) MYTH OF ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON SECURE BORDERS EXPOSED SINCE RAID LAUNCHED FROM THE SEA.

(D) EGYPTIAN POSITION VINDICATED SINCE RAID AND REPRISAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 08531 161634Z

HAVE DRAMATIZED THAT CYCLE OF VIOLENCE CAN ONLY BE ENDED WITH A SETTLEMENT AND THAT PALESTINIANS ARE INDEED THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM.

(E) THE U.S. HAS A VITAL ROLE IN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. HAS TAKEN ON ADDED IMPORTANCE. THE U.S. MUST NOW MOVE SWIFTLY TO BRING ABOUT ISRAELI CONCESSIONS ON KEY ISSUES.

(F) EMPTINESS OF SYRIAN CLAIM TO BE ARAB LEADER DRAMATIZED BY ITS IMPOTENCE IN CONFRONTING ISRAELIS.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE GLOOM ABOUT ISRAELI "INVASION" AND GROWING PUBLIC PESSIMISM THAT PEACE PROCESS COLLAPSING, OFFICIALS ARE--AT LEAST WITH US--STILL COMMITTED TO PEACE PROCESS. THEY NOW FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT PROCESS WILL BE DELAYED BY EVENTS IN LEBANON. IN THEIR VIEW, THE BASIC ELEMENTS TO BE RESOLVED REMAIN THE SAME AS BEFORE THE FATAH RAID. THE U.S. MUST THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON RESOLVING KEY ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION DURING BEGIN VISIT AND NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE DISTRACTED BY SIDE ISSUE OF LEBANON. ELTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, REPRISALS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO08531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780117-0774
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaacabg.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59294bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 8519
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3314170
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MILI, MOPS, EG, IS, LE, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59294bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014